



**NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION®**

National Advocacy Center  
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February 27, 2012

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Wildlife Federation and our four million members, I urge you to oppose the “San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act” (H.R. 1837) which will be considered this week on the House floor. In addition to undermining the 1992 Central Valley Project Improvement Act this legislation undermines federal deference to state water law, removes environmental protection for salmon and other commercially-valuable species, and overturns the bipartisan, court approved settlement to restore the San Joaquin River. If enacted this bill threatens wildlife, thousands of salmon fishing jobs and communities in California and Oregon, and water quality in the Bay-Delta.

In response to the need to improve environmental protections for declining species and to build healthy resistant ecosystems while addressing important water supply and quality issues the State of California adopted bipartisan water policy reform legislation in 2009. H.R. 1837 would preempt implementation of this legislation which ordered the development of a comprehensive Delta Plan, established co-equal goals of improving water supply reliability and restoring the Bay-Delta estuary, and strengthened environmental protections for endangered species in California.

The National Wildlife Federation as well as both Republican and Democrat administrations in California have voiced full opposition to any legislation that minimizes the protections the Endangered Species Act in the Bay-Delta has implemented. Title 1 of H.R. 1837 would eliminate science-based protections for salmon and other endangered species and instead substitutes measures that were crafted as a part of a short term deal in 1994, in a vastly different ecological and scientific environment.

Finally, H.R. 1837 overturns the bipartisan San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act which removes river restoration requirements. H.R. 1837 also undermines the 1992 Central Valley Project Improvement Act. This act, signed into law by President Bush, establishes water supply and ecosystem protection as co-equal goals of the Central Valley Project. This encourages water conservation which tremendously aides in preserving the wildlife of the Bay-Delta estuary.

For the salmon fishery in California the Bay-Delta estuary is its lifeblood. The closure of the salmon fishery in 2008 and 2009 resulted in thousands of lost jobs in California and Oregon and hundreds of millions of dollars in lost income each year. The livelihoods of commercial and recreational salmon fishermen, Delta farmers, fishing guides, tackle shops, and communities across California and along the West Coast depend on the environmental protections that the National Wildlife Federation has long supported and that H.R. 1837 would eliminate.

For all of these reasons, we strongly urge you to **oppose H.R. 1837**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Schweiger', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Larry Schweiger  
President and CEO  
National Wildlife Federation  
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